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**ABSTRACT**

The second quarter 1974 Bureau of Labor Statistics show little change over the past year in the job situation for Vietnam veterans (20-34 years). With the number of newly discharged veterans being reduced, the unemployment rate remains steady at 5 percent; a much smaller proportion of Vietnam veterans now are 20-24 years old, where the unemployment rate is considerably higher than for older veterans. A substantial difference still remains between the higher jobless rate of the younger veterans compared with nonveterans 20-24 years old. The unemployment rate for Negro veterans (20-34 years), at 10.5 percent, was not significantly changed over the quarter or year. (Quarterly and annual averages are presented in six tables concerning employment status, duration of unemployment, reasons for unemployment, and reasons for nonparticipation in the labor force by veterans and nonveterans in an age group 20-34 years old divided by region, age, and race.) (EA)

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# NEWS



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## EMPLOYMENT SITUATION OF VIETNAM-ERA VETERANS: SECOND QUARTER 1974

The job situation for Vietnam-era veterans 20 to 34 years old showed little change in the second quarter of 1974, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics of the U. S. Department of Labor. On a seasonally adjusted basis, 5.5 million veterans were employed, 290,000 were unemployed, and the unemployment rate, at 5.0 percent was essentially the same as in the first quarter and a year ago. (See table 1.)

The steadiness of the unemployment rate is attributable not only to the general stability of the national job market, but also to the changing age composition of the veterans. The number of veterans out of the service for several years has been growing, while the number of young men being discharged from the Armed Forces has been greatly reduced. Thus, a much smaller proportion of Vietnam-era veterans now are 20-24 years old, where the unemployment rate is considerably higher than for older veterans. In the second quarter of 1974, the seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for the younger veterans was 9.8 percent compared with 4.2 and 2.6 percent for those 25-29 and 30-34.

The jobless rate for older veterans is usually equal to or lower than that for older nonveterans, but a substantial difference still remains between the higher rate of the younger veterans compared with nonveterans 20-24 years old. Accounting for some of the difference is the fact that young nonveterans have been in the job market longer than the recently returned veterans and thus are better established in jobs. Also, unemployment insurance payments are available to Vietnam-era veterans,

regardless of prior civilian work experience. This helps to soften the impact of joblessness for some veterans and may influence them to continue searching for work until they find the "right" job. On the other hand, many young nonveterans may not have enough wage credits to qualify for unemployment compensation while they look for work and may feel pressed to take any job available.

Other highlights for the second quarter of 1974 include the following (based on data that are not seasonally adjusted):

The unemployment rate for 20-34 year-old Negro veterans, at 10.5 percent was not significantly changed over the quarter or over the year. Their rate was not materially different from that of Negro nonveterans in ages 20-34 (9.5 percent), but remained more than twice that of the white veterans. It is difficult to estimate precisely the Negro-white differences because the unemployment data for Negroes are based on very small sample numbers and are subject to large sampling errors. Nevertheless, the Negro-white differences for the younger group (20-24) have generally been greater than for the older men. (See table 2.)

Jobless rates for veterans 20-34 years old remained lowest for those residing in the South (4.1 percent) and highest for those living in the West (6.4 percent). (See table 3.)

The proportion of unemployed veterans looking for work for 15 weeks or more rose to 30 percent after having shown some improvement during the past year. (See table 4.)

In terms of reasons for their unemployment, the proportion of veterans reporting job loss rose substantially over the year, especially for those reporting layoff. (See table 5.)

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Table 1. Employment status of male Vietnam-era veterans and nonveterans 20 to 34 years old, quarterly averages

(Numbers in thousands)

Employment status	2nd 1973	3rd 1973	4th 1973	1st 1974	2nd 1974	Seasonally adjusted				
						2nd 1973	3rd 1973	4th 1973	1st 1974	2nd 1974
<b>VETERANS<sup>1</sup></b>										
Total, 20 to 34 years										
Civilian noninstitutional population <sup>2</sup> .....	5,654	5,756	5,866	5,999	6,109	5,654	5,756	5,866	5,999	6,109
Civilian labor force.....	5,307	5,443	5,531	5,670	5,764	5,310	5,382	5,530	5,724	5,771
Employed.....	5,031	5,192	5,326	5,322	5,481	5,026	5,115	5,300	5,473	5,480
Unemployed.....	276	250	205	348	283	284	267	230	251	291
Unemployment rate.....	5.2	4.6	3.7	6.1	4.9	5.3	5.0	4.2	5.1	5.0
20 to 24 years										
Civilian noninstitutional population <sup>2</sup> .....	1,712	1,627	1,547	1,454	1,396	1,712	1,627	1,547	1,454	1,396
Civilian labor force.....	1,567	1,475	1,389	1,317	1,246	1,561	1,458	1,393	1,331	1,242
Employed.....	1,427	1,358	1,291	1,159	1,129	1,415	1,331	1,286	1,199	1,120
Unemployed.....	140	118	97	158	117	146	127	107	132	122
Unemployment rate.....	9.0	8.0	7.0	12.0	9.4	9.4	8.7	7.7	9.9	9.8
25 to 29 years										
Civilian noninstitutional population <sup>2</sup> .....	2,968	3,069	3,173	3,335	3,411	2,968	3,069	3,173	3,335	3,411
Civilian labor force.....	2,798	2,934	3,021	3,171	3,246	2,806	2,900	3,013	3,204	3,255
Employed.....	2,685	2,823	2,942	3,021	3,112	2,692	2,786	2,920	3,079	3,119
Unemployed.....	113	112	78	150	134	114	116	94	125	135
Unemployment rate.....	4.0	3.8	2.6	4.7	4.1	4.1	4.0	3.1	3.9	4.2
30 to 34 years										
Civilian noninstitutional population <sup>2</sup> .....	974	1,060	1,146	1,211	1,302	974	1,060	1,146	1,211	1,302
Civilian labor force.....	942	1,033	1,122	1,182	1,272	943	1,024	1,123	1,189	1,275
Employed.....	919	1,012	1,092	1,142	1,240	920	1,000	1,094	1,154	1,241
Unemployed.....	22	21	30	40	32	24	24	-30	34	34
Unemployment rate.....	2.4	2.0	2.6	3.4	2.5	2.5	2.3	2.6	2.9	2.6
<b>NONVETERANS</b>										
Total, 20 to 34 years										
Civilian noninstitutional population <sup>2</sup> .....	14,254	14,488	14,714	14,687	14,878	14,254	14,488	14,714	14,687	14,878
Civilian labor force.....	12,844	13,331	13,241	13,115	13,490	12,845	13,004	13,358	13,340	13,491
Employed.....	12,210	12,736	12,685	12,304	12,747	12,200	12,381	12,755	12,621	12,737
Unemployed.....	634	595	557	812	744	645	623	603	719	754
Unemployment rate.....	4.9	4.5	4.2	6.2	5.5	5.0	4.8	4.5	5.4	5.6
20 to 24 years										
Civilian noninstitutional population <sup>2</sup> .....	6,559	6,721	6,867	6,876	7,003	6,559	6,721	6,867	6,876	7,003
Civilian labor force.....	5,506	5,894	5,737	5,683	6,002	5,498	5,571	5,862	5,904	5,994
Employed.....	5,110	5,530	5,398	5,192	5,537	5,105	5,200	5,492	5,454	5,533
Unemployed.....	396	363	339	491	465	394	371	369	451	461
Unemployment rate.....	7.2	6.2	5.9	8.6	7.7	7.2	6.7	6.3	7.6	7.7
25 to 29 years										
Civilian noninstitutional population <sup>2</sup> .....	4,111	4,134	4,172	4,038	4,059	4,111	4,134	4,172	4,038	4,059
Civilian labor force.....	3,890	3,930	3,959	3,800	3,828	3,896	3,924	3,951	3,811	3,834
Employed.....	3,734	3,769	3,811	3,613	3,655	3,732	3,750	3,790	3,654	3,652
Unemployed.....	155	161	148	188	173	164	173	161	157	182
Unemployment rate.....	4.0	4.1	3.7	4.9	4.5	4.2	4.4	4.1	4.1	4.7
30 to 34 years										
Civilian noninstitutional population <sup>2</sup> .....	3,583	3,633	3,674	3,774	3,817	3,583	3,633	3,674	3,774	3,817
Civilian labor force.....	3,448	3,507	3,545	3,632	3,661	3,450	3,509	3,546	3,624	3,663
Employed.....	3,366	3,437	3,476	3,499	3,555	3,363	3,431	3,473	3,513	3,531
Unemployed.....	82	70	69	133	106	87	79	73	111	111
Unemployment rate.....	2.4	2.0	1.9	3.7	2.9	2.5	2.2	2.0	3.1	3.0

<sup>1</sup> Vietnam-era veterans are those who served after August 4, 1964. At present, of the Vietnam-era veterans of all ages, 90 percent are 20 to 34 years of age.

<sup>2</sup> Since seasonal variations are not present in the population figures, identical numbers appear in the unadjusted and seasonally adjusted columns.

NOTE: Because of rounding, sums of individual items may not equal totals. Rates are based on unrounded numbers. Data are subject to sampling variability which may be relatively large in cases where numbers are small. Therefore, differences between numbers or percents based on them may not be significant. For a detailed explanation of the reliability of estimates, including standard error tables, see the Explanatory Notes in the monthly BLS periodical, Employment and Earnings.

Original and seasonally adjusted data are published each month and quarter on the employment status of all male Vietnam-era veterans and nonveterans 20-24, 25-29, and 30-34 years old. Data by race are issued only on a quarterly basis because the smaller estimates are subject to large sampling errors. The data by race are not seasonally adjusted. Other data issued on a quarterly basis and not seasonally adjusted include duration of unemployment, reasons for unemployment, and reasons for nonparticipation in the labor force.

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Table 2. Employment status of male Vietnam-era veterans and nonveterans 20 to 34 years old, by race, quarterly averages  
(Numbers in thousands)

Deployment status	White					Negro and other races				
	2nd 1973	3rd 1973	4th 1973	1st 1974	2nd 1974	2nd 1973	3rd 1973	4th 1973	1st 1974	2nd 1974
<b>VETERANS<sup>1</sup></b>										
Total, 20 to 34 years										
Civilian noninstitutional population.....	5,081	5,191	5,282	5,411	5,484	573	565	584	588	625
Civilian labor force.....	4,795	4,944	5,010	5,134	5,199	511	499	521	536	565
Employed.....	4,569	4,739	4,832	4,869	4,970	482	453	494	473	505
Unemployed.....	227	204	178	265	223	49	46	27	63	59
Unemployment rate.....	4.7	4.1	3.6	5.5	4.3	9.6	9.2	5.2	11.8	10.5
20 to 24 years										
Civilian noninstitutional population.....	1,476	1,432	1,360	1,285	1,223	235	195	187	169	174
Civilian labor force.....	1,359	1,318	1,227	1,171	1,103	208	157	162	146	144
Employed.....	1,253	1,221	1,143	1,041	1,014	174	136	148	119	116
Unemployed.....	106	97	84	130	89	34	21	14	28	28
Unemployment rate.....	7.8	7.4	6.8	11.1	8.1	16.4	13.2	8.5	18.9	19.5
25 to 29 years										
Civilian noninstitutional population.....	2,721	2,791	2,877	3,040	3,095	247	278	296	294	316
Civilian labor force.....	2,579	2,679	2,755	2,900	2,956	219	255	266	270	290
Employed.....	2,479	2,591	2,690	2,779	2,845	206	232	253	242	267
Unemployed.....	100	88	65	121	111	13	24	13	29	23
Unemployment rate.....	3.9	3.3	2.4	4.2	3.7	5.9	9.3	4.9	10.6	8.0
30 to 34 years										
Civilian noninstitutional population.....	883	968	1,045	1,086	1,167	91	92	101	125	135
Civilian labor force.....	857	946	1,028	1,063	1,141	84	87	94	120	131
Employed.....	837	927	999	1,029	1,117	82	85	93	113	123
Unemployed.....	20	19	29	33	24	2	2	1	7	8
Unemployment rate.....	2.3	2.0	2.8	3.1	2.1	2.4	1.9	.7	5.8	6.1
<b>NONVETERANS</b>										
Total, 20 to 34 years										
Civilian noninstitutional population.....	12,354	12,537	12,747	12,771	12,966	1,900	1,950	1,966	1,916	1,912
Civilian labor force.....	11,195	11,601	11,817	11,457	11,826	1,649	1,730	1,724	1,658	1,644
Employed.....	10,700	11,161	11,092	10,827	11,241	1,509	1,575	1,593	1,477	1,506
Unemployed.....	494	440	425	630	585	140	155	132	181	158
Unemployment rate.....	4.4	3.8	3.7	5.5	4.9	8.5	8.9	7.6	10.9	9.5
20 to 24 years										
Civilian noninstitutional population.....	5,727	5,835	5,962	5,998	6,120	832	886	905	878	883
Civilian labor force.....	4,837	5,150	4,993	4,976	5,277	669	744	744	707	725
Employed.....	4,529	4,880	4,736	4,590	4,908	580	651	642	602	629
Unemployed.....	307	270	257	386	369	89	93	82	105	96
Unemployment rate.....	6.4	5.2	5.1	7.8	7.0	13.3	12.5	11.1	14.9	13.2
25 to 29 years										
Civilian noninstitutional population.....	3,564	3,596	3,633	3,516	3,546	547	538	539	522	513
Civilian labor force.....	3,392	3,429	3,466	3,336	3,363	497	501	493	464	465
Employed.....	3,269	3,310	3,351	3,195	3,229	455	459	460	417	426
Unemployed.....	123	119	115	141	135	32	42	34	47	38
Unemployment rate.....	3.6	3.5	3.3	4.2	4.0	6.5	8.4	6.8	10.1	8.2
30 to 34 years										
Civilian noninstitutional population.....	3,063	3,106	3,153	3,257	3,301	520	527	522	517	516
Civilian labor force.....	2,966	3,022	3,059	3,145	3,186	482	485	486	487	479
Employed.....	2,902	2,971	3,005	3,041	3,105	464	466	471	458	450
Unemployed.....	64	51	53	104	81	18	20	16	30	24
Unemployment rate.....	2.2	1.7	1.7	3.3	2.6	3.8	4.1	3.2	6.1	5.1

<sup>1</sup> See footnote 1, table 1.

NOTE: See note, table 1.

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Table 3. Employment status of male Vietnam-era veterans and nonveterans 20 to 34 years old, by region, age, and race, second quarter averages, 1974

(Numbers in thousands)

Employment status and race	Veterans <sup>1</sup>					Nonveterans				
	Total	North-east	North Central	South	West	Total	North-east	North Central	South	West
<b>Total, 20 to 34 years</b>										
Civilian noninstitutional population.....	6,109	1,216	1,824	1,877	1,192	14,878	3,538	4,064	4,622	2,674
Civilian labor force.....	5,764	1,139	1,739	1,776	1,115	13,490	3,104	3,721	4,248	2,415
Percent of population.....	94.4	93.7	95.1	94.6	93.5	90.7	87.7	92.0	91.9	90.3
Employed.....	5,481	1,085	1,650	1,703	1,044	12,747	2,894	3,527	4,077	2,249
Unemployed.....	283	55	86	72	71	744	211	194	371	167
Unemployment rate.....	4.9	4.8	5.0	4.1	6.4	5.5	6.8	5.2	4.0	6.9
<b>20 to 24 years</b>										
Civilian noninstitutional population.....	1,396	252	422	433	289	7,003	1,629	1,935	2,156	1,224
Civilian labor force.....	1,246	218	379	393	256	6,002	1,365	1,696	1,892	1,040
Percent of population.....	89.3	86.5	89.8	90.8	88.6	85.7	80.9	87.6	87.8	85.6
Employed.....	1,129	204	338	361	226	5,537	1,277	1,565	1,782	932
Unemployed.....	117	14	41	32	30	465	138	130	110	96
Unemployment rate.....	9.4	6.4	10.8	8.1	11.7	7.7	10.7	7.7	5.8	9.2
<b>25 to 29 years</b>										
Civilian noninstitutional population.....	3,411	684	1,051	1,040	635	4,059	961	1,083	1,237	778
Civilian labor force.....	3,246	647	1,012	990	597	3,828	892	1,032	1,181	723
Percent of population.....	95.2	94.6	96.3	95.2	94.0	94.3	92.1	95.3	95.5	92.9
Employed.....	1,112	616	978	956	562	3,635	841	993	1,147	674
Unemployed.....	134	32	35	33	35	173	50	39	30	49
Unemployment rate.....	4.1	4.9	3.5	3.3	5.9	4.5	5.6	3.8	3.0	6.8
<b>30 to 34 years</b>										
Civilian noninstitutional population.....	1,302	280	351	404	268	3,817	890	1,026	1,229	672
Civilian labor force.....	1,272	274	344	393	262	3,661	847	993	1,177	644
Percent of population.....	97.7	97.9	98.0	97.3	97.8	95.9	95.2	96.8	95.6	95.8
Employed.....	1,240	265	334	386	255	3,555	815	968	1,149	622
Unemployed.....	32	9	10	7	6	106	32	25	26	22
Unemployment rate.....	2.5	3.3	2.9	1.8	2.3	2.9	3.8	2.5	2.2	3.4
<b>White, 20 to 34 years</b>										
Civilian noninstitutional population.....	5,486	1,119	1,677	1,597	1,093	12,965	3,163	3,695	3,762	2,355
Civilian labor force.....	5,200	1,053	1,604	1,520	1,023	11,827	2,791	3,427	3,477	2,132
Percent of population.....	94.8	94.1	95.6	95.2	93.6	91.2	88.2	92.7	92.4	90.9
Employed.....	4,976	1,008	1,537	1,474	957	11,241	2,619	3,267	3,366	1,989
Unemployed.....	224	45	67	45	67	586	172	160	112	142
Unemployment rate.....	4.3	4.3	4.2	3.0	6.5	5.0	6.2	4.7	3.2	6.7
<b>Negro and other races, 20 to 34 years</b>										
Civilian noninstitutional population.....	625	98	147	281	99	1,912	376	348	859	329
Civilian labor force.....	564	86	131	256	91	1,663	314	294	771	284
Percent of population.....	90.2	87.8	89.1	91.1	91.9	87.0	83.5	84.5	89.8	86.3
Employed.....	506	77	113	229	87	1,504	274	259	713	259
Unemployed.....	60	10	18	27	5	159	39	35	59	26
Unemployment rate.....	10.6	11.6	13.7	10.5	5.5	9.6	12.4	11.9	7.7	9.2

<sup>1</sup> See footnote 1, table 1.

NOTE: See note, table 1.

**Table 4. Duration of unemployment of male Vietnam-era veterans and nonveterans 20 to 34 years old, by age, second quarter averages, 1973 and 1974**

(Percent distribution)

Duration of unemployment	Total, 20 to 34 years		20 to 24 years		25 to 29 years		30 to 34 years	
	2nd 1973	2nd 1974	2nd 1973	2nd 1974	2nd 1973	2nd 1974	2nd 1973	2nd 1974
<b>VETERANS<sup>1</sup></b>								
Total unemployed:								
Number (thou- sands).....	276	283	140	117	113	134	22	32
Percent.....	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	(2)	(2)
Less than 5 weeks.....	44.6	40.8	45.4	43.6	45.1	40.3	-	-
5 to 14 weeks.....	32.2	29.4	31.9	29.9	31.9	29.8	-	-
15 weeks and over.....	23.2	29.8	22.7	26.5	23.0	29.8	-	-
<b>NONVETERANS</b>								
Total unemployed:								
Number (thou- sands).....	634	744	396	465	155	173	82	106
Percent.....	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Less than 5 weeks.....	48.5	45.9	51.6	48.6	45.5	37.0	39.0	48.6
5 to 14 weeks.....	27.3	28.5	27.8	27.1	24.4	34.1	30.5	25.7
15 weeks and over.....	24.2	25.6	20.5	24.3	30.1	28.9	30.5	25.7

<sup>1</sup> See footnote 1, table 1.

<sup>2</sup> Percent not shown where base is less than 50,000.

NOTE: See note, table 1.

**Table 5. Reasons for unemployment of male Vietnam-era veterans and nonveterans 20 to 34 years old, by age, second quarter averages, 1973 and 1974**

(Percent distribution)

Reason for unemployment	Total, 20 to 34 years		20 to 24 years		25 to 29 years		30 to 34 years	
	2nd 1973	2nd 1974	2nd 1973	2nd 1974	2nd 1973	2nd 1974	2nd 1973	2nd 1974
<b>VETERANS<sup>1</sup></b>								
Total unemployed:								
Number (thou- sands).....	276	283	140	117	113	134	22	32
Percent.....	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	(2)	(2)
Lost last job.....	43.2	53.2	34.0	38.5	51.8	62.7	-	-
On layoff.....	11.2	18.4	5.0	12.0	17.5	23.1	-	-
Other job losers.....	32.0	34.8	29.1	26.5	34.2	39.6	-	-
Left last job.....	17.6	18.8	15.6	21.4	18.4	18.7	-	-
Entered labor force....	39.2	28.0	50.4	40.2	29.8	8.7	-	-
Reentered labor force.....	33.5	23.8	41.1	29.9	27.0	18.7	-	-
Never worked before.....	5.8	4.3	9.2	10.3	2.6	-	-	-
<b>NONVETERANS</b>								
Total unemployed:								
Number (thou- sands).....	634	744	396	465	155	173	82	106
Percent.....	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Lost last job.....	51.2	55.8	41.2	50.3	67.3	62.4	68.7	68.9
On layoff.....	13.9	15.2	9.1	12.0	19.9	15.6	25.3	28.3
Other job losers.....	37.3	40.6	32.1	38.3	47.4	46.8	43.4	40.6
Left last job.....	18.3	15.9	20.2	14.2	14.7	20.2	15.7	16.0
Entered labor force....	30.6	28.4	38.6	35.5	17.9	17.3	15.7	15.1
Reentered labor force.....	25.2	24.6	30.3	30.1	17.3	15.6	15.7	15.1
Never worked before.....	5.4	3.8	8.3	5.4	.6	1.7	-	-

<sup>1</sup> See footnote 1, table 1.

<sup>2</sup> Percent not shown where base is less than 50,000.

NOTE: See note, table 1.

Table 6. Reasons for nonparticipation in labor force for male Vietnam-era veterans and nonveterans 20 to 34 years old, by age, second quarter averages, 1973 and 1974.

(Percent distribution)

Reason for nonparticipation	Total, 20 to 34 years		20 to 24 years		25 to 29 years		30 to 34 years	
	2nd 1973	2nd 1974	2nd 1973	2nd 1974	2nd 1973	2nd 1974	2nd 1973	2nd 1974
<b>VETERANS<sup>1</sup></b>								
Total not in labor force:								
Number (thousands).....	347	345	145	150	170	165	32	30
Percent.....	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	(2)	(2)
In school.....	61.0	53.2	62.5	64.0	66.1	47.9	-	-
Want job now <sup>3</sup> .....	12.5	10.2	13.9	14.0	13.1	7.3	-	-
Ill health or disability.....	11.6	15.7	6.9	7.3	11.3	21.2	-	-
No desire for job now..	16.9	21.2	20.1	23.3	12.5	16.4	-	-
Think impossible to find job.....	2.0	1.7	2.1	1.3	2.4	2.4	-	-
All other.....	8.4	8.1	8.3	4.0	7.7	12.1	-	-
<b>NONVETERANS</b>								
Total not in labor force:								
Number (thousands).....	1,410	1,388	1,053	1,001	221	231	135	156
Percent.....	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
In school.....	67.5	61.6	80.1	72.8	36.9	46.5	19.9	12.7
Want job now <sup>3</sup> .....	13.9	9.9	17.3	11.5	2.7	8.7	5.9	1.9
Ill health or disability.....	12.9	13.3	5.1	6.7	29.7	23.9	45.6	40.1
No desire for job now..	11.8	16.7	9.0	14.2	22.5	19.1	16.2	29.3
Think impossible to find job.....	3.0	3.2	2.4	2.3	4.5	3.9	5.1	8.3
All other.....	4.8	5.1	3.4	4.1	6.3	6.5	13.2	9.6

<sup>1</sup> See footnote 1, table 1.

<sup>2</sup> Percent not shown where base is less than 50,000.

<sup>3</sup> Included in "In school."

NOTE: See note, table 1.